

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 07893 101450Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071628 101511Z /44
O 101350Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8721
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7893

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PN, VE
SUBJECT: BOGOTA MEETING AND CANAL TREATY--REQUEST FOR
PRESIDENT CARTER'S REACTION

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ ASKED TO SEE ME AFTERNOON AUGUST 9
TO ASK ME TO PASS TO WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING THREE
POINTS:

2. A) AT BOGOTA (AND I TAKE IT THIS WAS THE REAL
REASON HE WANTED TO SEE ME), THE CHIEF OF STATE AGREED
TO CIRCULARIZE THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE HEMISPHERE CONFIDENTIALLY
AND ASK THEM TO AGREE TO MEET IN PANAMA UPON THE SIGNING
OF THE FINAL TREATY--AND TO WITNESS THE SIGNING--BY WAY OF
ENDORISING AND UNDERWRITING IT. PRESIDENT LOPEZ WAS
COMMISSIONED TO WRITE A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER TO ALL CHIEFS
OF STATE PROPOSING THIS. THE IDEA WAS THAT SUCH A MEETING
WOULD BE QUIET, WITHOUT SPEECHES OR FANFARE. THE PURPOSE
WOULD BE TO COMMIT ALL LA NATIONS TO THE TREATY. THIS,
CAP SAID, SHOULD HELP THE USG IN THE RATIFICATION PROCESS
BECAUSE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY
TO THE SENATE. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED THIS
GENERAL IDEA TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHO HAD APPROVED OF IT
IN GENERAL TERMS. (I NOTE THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER RECOMMENDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 07893 101450Z

ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING TO AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN; SAN JOSE 3572.)

3. I ASKED HIM WHAT THE MODUS OPERANDI WAS TO BE--
WAS THE SUGGESTION TO BE MADE TO THE SIGNATORIES TO INVITE
OR WOULD THE CHIEFS OF STATE TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND
APPEAR, OR WHAT. CAP SAID THAT ONCE LOPEZ HAD RECEIVED
REPLIES TO HIS QUERY--WHICH THEY EXPECTED WOULD BE

GENERALLY IN FAVOR--THEY WOULD INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THEY WOULD BE PRESENT TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THE TREATY.

4. I ASKED CAP IF ALL NATIONS WOULD BE INVITED. HE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE. THERE COULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION. HE WAS NOT SURE ALL WOULD AGREE TO COME, E.G. MEXICO MIGHT NOT IF CHILE DID. I ASKED HIM IF THIS MEANT FIDEL CASTRO WOULD BE INVITED. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO BE. AT THIS POINT, CAP SAID THAT THIS WAS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IF CASTRO CAME HE WOULD BE PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO THE TREATY AND WOULD THEREAFTER BE DETERRED FROM LATER OPPOSING OR CRITICIZING IT. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO "COMMIT" CASTRO. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT CASTRO'S PRESENCE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO US, AND THAT IT WOULD AT LEAST PRESENT COMPLICATIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT IN FACT COMPLICATE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS. CAP DEFENDED THE IDEA STRONGLY; HE DID SAY AT ONE POINT THAT CASTRO HAD TO BE INVITED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS SOMEONE COULD DISSUADE HIM FROM ACCEPTING IF THERE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

5. CAP ASKED ME TO RELAY THE FOREGOING PLAN TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS REACTION. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING OUR REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. B) HIS TOTAL IMPRESSION IS THAT WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A TREATY, AND HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE PUSH HARD TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 07893 101450Z

SETTLE IT IN THESE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE SITUATION IS SUCH THAT ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, CHANCE REMARK OR EVENT COULD DERAIL THE PROCESS. THE IRON WAS QUITE HOT NOW AND NOW WAS THE TIME TO STRIKE. WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY. HE HAD TALKED TO TORRIJOS EARLIER IN THE DAY, AND FOUND HIM OPTIMISTIC. HE THEREFORE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON HIS (CAP'S) EARNEST RECOMMENDATION TO WIND IT UP NOW.

7. C) AS FAR AS HE COULD TELL TORRIJOS HAD AGREED TO OUR ECONOMIC PROPOSALS IN PRINCIPLE. THERE WAS ONLY ONE POINT WHICH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ACCEPT, VIZ., AN OPTION ON A SEA LEVEL CANAL. CAP SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF THIS TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN SEEKING SENATORIAL RATIFICATION, BUT HE DID WANT TO TELL US THAT AS PRESENTLY SHAPED THIS POINT COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY TORRIJOS.

8. COMMENT: CAP IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF A MEETING OF THE LA CHIEFS OF STATE TO ENDORSE THE TREATY. IT DOES HAVE MERIT, AND I ASSUME WE WOULD AGREE TO IT. THE QUESTION OF CASTRO'S INCLUSION IS THE QUESTION MARK

ALTHOUGH CAP IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF IT. IF IT GIVES
US PROBLEMS WE SHOULD COME BACK QUICKLY TO HIM--PERHAPS
WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE--IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE
THE WHEELS WHICH THE BOGOTA MEETING SET IN MOTION.
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, CANALS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA07893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770287-1248
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacobf.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27d3305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1651352
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOGOTA MEETING AND CANAL TREATY--REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S REACTION
TAGS: PBOR, EWWT, PN, VE, US, CO, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27d3305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009